



Bureau of Children's Justice

BCJ

California Defending Childhood State Policy Initiative

GOALS, STRATEGIES, AND PRIORITIES

Goal for California

To align, integrate and mobilize multi-sectoral resources to equitably prevent, identify and heal the impacts of violence and trauma on children and youth.

Role of the Defending Childhood State Policy Initiative

- Establish cross-sector team of state agency leaders dedicated to crafting a common agenda to prevent and address children's exposure to violence
- Identify policy recommendations and actions to more effectively prevent and address the damage caused by children's exposure to violence and trauma.

Strategies of the State Defending Childhood Team

Funding:

Identify and promote mechanisms to blend and braid funding sources to expand prevention and access to supports and services for children and youth exposed to violence.

Data: Use existing data to evaluate gaps in current funding and services, and improve and promote data sharing and coordination within and between state agencies.

Training:

Improve workforce capacity across child-serving systems to address trauma.

Early Intervention:

Improve Early Identification and Screening of Children Exposed to Violence & Trauma.

Engage Local & Community Stakeholders

to obtain input & build a plan that is responsive to the needs of children in diverse communities across the state.

California Defending Childhood State Policy Initiative Team

Led by the Bureau of Children's Justice within the California Department of Justice, with current staffing provided through a partnership with Futures Without Violence (with funding from multiple sources including The California Endowment and Blue Shield of California Foundation).

Members:

- CA Department of Justice
- CA Department of Education
- CA Health and Human Services Agency
- CA Department of Health Care Services
- CA Department of Social Services
- CA Department of Public Health
- CA Department of Finance
- CA Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation
- CA Governor's Office of Emergency Services
- First 5 CA
- Cal MHSA
- California State Association of Counties
- City of San Jose, CA
- City of Salinas, CA

